



Dave Heineman
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Mr. President, Mr. Speaker,
and Members of the Legislature
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Legislature:

With this letter, I am returning LB 959 with my signature, but with line-item reductions to eliminate the gas tax increase included within the budget of the Department of Roads.

I want to applaud the hard work and leadership of Senator Heidemann, members of the Appropriations Committee, and the Legislature as a whole for delivering a budget bill package that represents a responsible revision to the State's budget for the 2007-2009 biennium. I particularly want to thank you for helping to maintain a strong cash reserve and continuing to exercise restraint in General Fund spending.

While I appreciate the Legislature's willingness to engage in a discussion of our roads funding challenges, now is not the time to increase the gas tax. Gasoline and diesel prices are hitting record highs almost every week, the cost of food is increasing, and healthcare costs are soaring. I have reduced the appropriation from the Department of Roads Highway Cash Fund by \$14,513,930 in FY 2008-09 to remove the gas tax increase included in the bill by the Legislature. The corresponding FY 2008-09 cash fund appropriation for road construction has been reduced by \$14,513,930.

Again, thank you for delivering a responsible and balanced General Fund budget. I urge you to sustain my line-item veto of the gas tax increase.

Sincerely,

Dave Heineman
Governor